

POLITICAL POSTERS IN CAMPAIGNS

Clubs of Both Parties Will Use the New Fad for Artistic Decoration.

(Copyright, 1896.)

A firm that does a large business in campaign posters has just issued the following statement: "The political clubs have fallen victims to the poster craze, and have ordered banners of campaign leaders made after the poster order."

"I did not mean to tell you as much as this," said the man who has the posters "up his sleeve," so to speak, "but since you have asked me to speak, I will give you a glimpse of the business. I might as well tell you all about it."

"You see," said this gentleman, who, by the way, has seen the business of making campaign banners for many years, "we are put to our wits' end every four years for new banners for the political clubs."

"Political clubs of this day are not contented with the Stars and Stripes and the old battle flags that we used to copy for them, with their stained spots and their tatters, are not known to the present generation. Each club wants something new, with the name of their candidate upon it, and the indication of party sentiment, as well as a certain beauty of conception besides. They give us carte blanche in price and design, and we must do the best we can for them."

"When the poster craze broke out," said this campaign banner gentleman, "we looked it over carefully to see if anything could be done with it so it could be adapted to our business of supplying political banners. But we decided that it could not."

"It was such a striking idea, and capable of so many workings, that we decided to try it, and we were more than anxious to carry it out and issue political posters. Only it was easy to drop into the ridiculous with it."

"One day an artist sauntered in here. He was a tall, slender fellow, with dreamy eyes and long hair. His fingers, long and trembling, held a pen and a bottle of ink, and his clothes were not exactly those of a duke."

"You handle campaign banners," he asked, hesitatingly.

"We do," I replied.

"Then you will like this one I've made of McKinley. It is done after the new poster fad."

"Quickly, before I could say no, he unfolded a long piece of paper the size of a door, and showed me the great protection that the shield of his country."

"That is in red, white and blue, for true patriotism. But I can get it up in yellow and black, like the Beardsleyesque, if you want it so. You see I have brought in the McKinley Club tonight. I have worked up the idea of the workman."

"The picture caught my eye. 'Leave it,' I said. 'There's to be a meeting of the McKinley Club tonight. I want to see it. I will show it to them.' He left the big paper on the table."

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It. You didn't know that once upon a time Ben Butler's firm made all the banners for political clubs, charging Democrats and Republicans alike. Ben Butler's banners were of fast color, and so well were they made that to this day there are some of them left that he personally sent out.

"The campaign banner, if it be of Stars and Stripes, is made like the American flag. If letters are wanted, these are sewed on by hand or are done in gold leaf, or, best of all, in stitching with gold thread through and through the banner, both sides being attached alike."

"With the poster banner the situation is greatly complicated, because there is no flag for a groundwork, and you begin with only your piece of bunting or silk. Ours so far have been of silk."

"The artist who has designed the banner comes to you with the entire article painted in water colors upon an immense sheet of paper, exactly the size of the banner that is to be made. Fifteen by thirty feet we consider an immense campaign banner. Ten by twenty is a fair size."

"We take the paper banner, tack it to the wall and set to work to copy it in a material that shall be more lasting than paper. Take that campaign poster of Hill and I will show you what I mean."

"In Hill's poster we begin with the Stars and stripes. They are put by hand upon a white background. The stars must be placed carefully, with their points spread, and

"The cost of getting up a campaign poster of this kind is very great. If there were enough color to it to have marching orders to order, with a special weave for each poster, the work could be done cheaply, but this is impossible, for each club has its own candidate."

"Take that Brice poster. Look at it and see if we do not deserve credit for working out the pose so carefully. As a rule, we warrant our posters to stand water, but we do not expect our posters to get wet. They are for ornament and to be hung in a hall over the heads of the orators who address the meetings."

"The best poster which you see upon the wall is the simplest to do. It has not been sent out yet; neither have any of the others. But you are positively the first one to see the speaker in his characteristic attitude, the one always pictured for him by his admirers through the country."

"For the best poster we took pale yellow silk and placed the figure of Brice upon it in dull silk, with the usual white lines for lapel and tie. His head was fortunate for us in being a bit of outline work, and the gate in his hair was the only relief from the yellow and black—a striking combination. The lettering is in all colors, with a preference for red, white, and blue."

"The cost of a poster is reckoned by the work we put upon it. This poster of Brice might be put up as \$100, while the one of Hill might be put up as \$200."

"In reckoning this up you must count the days taken by the embroiderer. We must pay an ecclesiastical embroiderer \$4 a day, and the waiting work during the daylight hours. We tried to get cheaper workmanship, and experimented upon the head of Brice. I wish you could have seen it when it was done. It looked like the side of a coconut, with which the monkeys have played ball when the shell was soft."

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Brice Gives Opportunity for a Beardsleyesque and Picturesque Effect.

o-c-a-t" until every letter is perfect. She then puts in the creases until it looks as though blown by the wind. The handle is long stitches in what she calls 'crawls'."

"The figure of the statesman is hardest. The black coat is a piece of broadcloth cut out like a man-doll's coat. It is first hung in place, and finally stitched there by artistic hands, and as the last touch of art receives its white lines with white silk to mark the creases in the hair."

"The features, hands, hair and feet are put in with silk thread, often after stitch, until as perfect as the wrought tapestries of the old saints. When done it is an exquisite thing."

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St. Patrick, Died March 17, 492, Aged 120 Years (From the only authentic portrait.)

ST. PATRICK A FRENCHMAN?

Was Taken as a Slave by the Irish, Who Were Then Fire Worshippers. Celestine, the Pope, Sent Him to Ireland as a Missionary—He Performed Miracles—He Lived 120 Years.

(Copyright, 1896.)

Most holidays that are celebrated by the tugging of drums, the waving of flags and the consumption of champagne, and off deadly liquors, are created in the church. St. Patrick's day is one of these.

There is a notion in most people's minds that St. Patrick was originally an Irish peasant boy who suddenly came into prominence and became a bishop by being off deadly liquors, are created in the church. St. Patrick's day is one of these.

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General Troches, Duke of Cannough.

General Saussier, Lord Roberts.

WAR LEADERS OF EUROPE

Archibald Forbes Says Eleven and a Half Million Soldiers Can Be Put in the Field in a Few Weeks.

Men Who Will Command Armies in Case of Conflict—Enormous Military Forces.

(Copyright, 1896, by Archibald Forbes.)

The world's greatest army cannot be put in the field in a few weeks. Everywhere the earth is covered with the tramp of armed men. Three millions of soldiers belong to the great powers of the world, and are standing at attention. And this vast mass of men, with weapons in their hands, is but what is termed the "peace strength" of the armies of the five great powers. In less than a month devoted to mobilization, these 3,000,000 can swell into a "war strength" amounting to the stupendous total of 10,500,000 armed men, with the terrible complement of nearly 18,000 guns.

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